



# LARC



Volume 59, Number 07

ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC., INC. - a 501(c)3 Corporation July 2019

## INDEPENDENCE DAY

This 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 will be the celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 when the United States declared independence from Great Britain. This is the day in which the Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

Since this is a Federal holiday and many state and federal offices will be closed, it was decided by members of the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association to forgo our normal meeting for the month. This will allow those who choose to be with family members to be with them.

How did we end up celebrating this particular day as our Independence Day? For the first 15 or 20 years after the Declaration was written, people didn't celebrate it much on any date. It was too new and too much else was happening in the young nation. By the 1790s, a time of bitter partisan conflicts, the Declaration had become controversial. One party, the Democratic-Republicans, admired Jefferson and the Declaration. But the other party, the Federalists, thought the Declaration was too French and too anti-British, which went against their current policies.

By 1817, John Adams complained in a letter that America seemed uninterested in its past. But that would soon change.

After the War of 1812, the Federalist party began to come apart and the new parties of the 1820s and 1830s all considered themselves inheritors of Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans. Printed copies of the Declaration began to circulate again, all with the date July 4, 1776, listed at the top. The deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, may even have helped to promote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated.

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### AARA GENERAL MEETING

**August 1 @ 7:00 PM**

Lafayette Science Museum 433 Jefferson St. Lafayette, LA

[www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/](http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/)

**VE Testing @ 6:00 PM**

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*By the*

*Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.*

*P. O. Box 51174*

*Lafayette, LA 70505-1174*

**DATES TO REMEMBER****GENERAL MEETING**

May 2, 2019 7:00 PM  
 Lafayette Science Museum  
 433 Jefferson Street  
 Lafayette, LA

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/>  
 Local 2-Meter Nets

**Monday**

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM  
 146.820 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

**Tuesday**

Region 4 SkyWarn Net 7:00 PM  
 146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

**Wednesday**

Silent Key Memorial Net 6:30 PM  
 145.410 No PL New Iberia, LA

**AARA OFFICERS 2018 - 2019**

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Celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common as the years went on and in 1870, almost a hundred years after the Declaration was written, Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday as part of a bill to officially recognize several holidays, including Christmas. Further legislation about national holidays, including July 4, was passed in 1939 and 1941.

Parts of the above article may be read at  
<https://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-declaration-of-independence/fourth-of-july/>

**G.I.'s Learn Morse Code**

Found on Facebook in "Lafayette Memories" by Herman Cambell

Train Depot, Scott, 1952. G.I.'s were trained on Morse telegraphs to help the short-handed railroads.

Back standing: T.A. Greeson (Superintendent of Southern Pacific), Wallace Whittington (Dispatcher), A.J. Hebert (Depot Agent), A.R. Easton (Asst. Directory S.W. La Trade School), and J.N. Broussard (Telegraph Agent).

The young men seated at the table are students.

Part of photo album: <http://tinyurl.com/pjux58p>

Photo album directory: <http://tinyurl.com/qb2cush>



April 2019



## VE TEST SESSION

6 June 2019

*Hey guys we had another good night for testing, two new Techs & a re-tread from expired Novice ticket to General.*

*Those earning the Technician License were; Laura L. Menard ~ **KI5FEC** of Lafayette, Jake M. Domingue of Arnouldville, & David R. Fullerton of Church Point (formerly **KA5RKH**) is now **KI5FEA**.*

*The VES in attendance were Greg ~**K5LFT**, Michael ~ **KI5ARX** & Archie ~ **W5AG**.*

*Congratulations to the testers and a great big thank you to the VEs for helping those folks along.*

73, de Greg ~ K5LFT



## Historic 2-Meter Transatlantic Contact Reported

*From ARRL Letter for June 20, 2019*

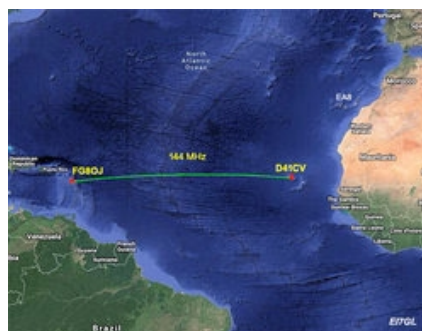
D41CV on Cape Verde Islands and FG8OJ in Guadeloupe spanned the Atlantic Ocean on 2 meters for the first time on June 16, according to reports. The distance was 3,867 kilometers (2,397.5 miles). The historic contact was made on 144.174 MHz using FT8 mode.

"The mode of propagation was most likely marine ducting, with the signal traveling in a layer near the ocean surface," said John Desmond, EI7GL, who was among those posting information on the contact. Mark De Munck, EA8FF, was at the helm of D41CV, the Monteverde Contest Team club station, off the coast of Africa. He used the beacon antenna at the station, as the so-called "Pinocchio Yagi" was down for repair. Bert Demarcq, FG8OJ, was on the other end of the contact.

"Now that this historic contact has been made, more 144 MHz contacts across this part of the Atlantic are sure to follow," Desmond said.

The initial contact does not qualify for the Brendan Trophies and Brendan Shields awards, because they require a valid contact to be made between Europe and the Americas on 2 meters. The distance covered, however, was greater than the distance between Ireland and Newfoundland.

"We continue to write a part of the history and to push barriers further away," a post on the D4C VHF & Up Facebook page said.



**NOTE: There is NOT be a General Meeting nor Testing for AARA on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2019. Enjoy the holiday. See you for the next meeting on August 1<sup>st</sup>.**



## New FT4 Beta Release "Leaps and Bounds" Better than Earlier Iterations

The WSJT-X Development Group released yet another new beta version of the FT4 protocol this week, and WSJT-X 2.1.0-rc7 is now available for testing. Developers point out that the FT4 included in this "release candidate 7" version is not compatible with any previous releases. A short mock contest session to wring out the contesting features of FT4 took place on June 4.

"Thanks to all who participated in yesterday's FT4 mock-contest practice session -- and especially to those who provided useful feedback. It is much appreciated!" said developer Joe Taylor, K1JT. "Everyone likes the 7.5-second T/R sequences, which provide operators with significantly more human interaction time than in previous revisions of FT4. Users also appreciated the sensitivity improvements and a larger range of acceptable time offsets (DT)." DT represents the combined clock difference for the transmitting and receiving computers, he explained.

Based on data compiled by Steve Franke, K9AN, Taylor said that it appears developers have the WSJT-X timing behavior under good control on all supported platforms, and the range of measured signal-to-noise values extended down to -21 dB.

"I operated for about 3 hours using 100 W and a dipole," Taylor recounted. "I copied transmissions from 263 unique call signs and made 143 QSOs in 29 states, 5 Canadian provinces, and 15 DXCCs."

Taylor said the developers anticipate addressing all remaining issues they're aware of. "I believe we are on a good path toward a General Availability (GA) release of WSJT-X 2.1.0 by mid-July," he said.

Steve Franke, K9AN, of the WSJT-X Development Group spent most of his time observing during the mock contest on June 4, decoding some 25,300 FT4 transmissions. This chart represents signal-to-noise ratios reported.

"This new version of FT4 is leaps and bounds better than before," said Mike Black, W9MDB, in a June 4 post to the Yahoo WSJT Meteor Scatter and Weak Signal Group. "I worked almost everybody I could see without any repeats. Seems like we have a winner here."

Changes, improvements, and bug fixes that have been made since WSJT-X 2.1.0-rc5 include:

- T/R sequence length increased from 6.0 to 7.5 seconds.

- Signal bandwidth decreased from 90 Hz to 80 Hz.

- Improved sensitivity: Threshold S/N is now -17.5 dB.

Downloadable installation packages for WSJT-X 2.1.0-rc7 under Windows, Linux, and macOS are available on the WSJT-X web page.



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## ARRL Field Day Deemed a Hit; Entries Due by July 23!

ARRL.org 06/26/2019

ARRL Field Day isn't over until participants take that final step of submitting their logs. By Tuesday, June 25, more than 1,300 had done so. The preferred method of submitting a Field Day entry is via the 2019 Field Day Entry Form on the ARRL website. This app, developed and supplied by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, will ask for the call sign used (as well as the GOTA station call sign, if applicable), entry class, number of participants, list of operators, power source and multiplier, claimed bonus points, contact totals by band and mode, and GOTA station operators and contact totals. It also allows the attachment of supporting information for bonuses. In addition, all entries require a list of stations contacted by band and mode (a dupe sheet). A Cabrillo file is also acceptable. Log files or summary sheets alone sent to ARRL do not constitute a valid Field Day entry.

To confirm that your web entry has been received, visit the Field Day logs received page. If the entry indicates "Pending documents," upload the missing items for maximum scoring. Entries must be postmarked or submitted by Tuesday, July 23, 2019. Late entries cannot be accepted.

Field Day is typically a club activity, and by the time the fourth weekend in June had arrived, nearly 1,600 groups had registered their locations.

The South Jersey Radio Association's K2AA operated in the 7A category. "This was a great effort by the SJRA members and guest operators, especially at the low point in the sunspot cycle and what seemed like not very good conditions," Bob Beyer, KE2D, reported on 3830scores.com. "Our digital station was the new star this year contributing 232 QSOs — a considerable improvement over other years."

W3AO, the well-known call sign of the National Press Radio Club in Maryland, had an unofficial contact count of 10,000 in 14 A category. "Propagation on 15 and especially 10 meters was somewhat subpar, same for 6 meters," said Frank Donovan, W3LPL. "FT8 has fundamentally changed the digital landscape; there was very limited RTTY and PSK31 activity. There was also very limited CW and SSB activity on 6 meters."

One operator who posted to the ARRL Field Day 2019 Facebook page was among those pointing out that propagation was difficult; while he was able to hear stations on the other side of the country and in the Caribbean, they could not hear him. He also reported high atmospheric noise. Nonetheless, others reported openings on 6, 10, and 15 meters, where propagation has been lacking in recent months for the most part.

Wade Harris, KF5IF, was part of the crew at the USS Batfish WW2SUB Field Day in Oklahoma. "Everyone seemed to have a good time, but it was a less than wonderful Field Day event, mainly due to storms that caused nothing less than noisy band conditions the whole time and severe lighting and high winds the caused everyone to disconnect and drop the antennas to stay safe several times," he said on the ARRL Field Day 2019 Facebook page. Less than a month ago, extreme flooding at the museum caused the World War II submarine to float down river after mooring lines broke free.

## June 2019 AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
AARA Monday Night Net	4	63		119	KD5JSM Danny
Region 4 SkyWarn Net	4	37		109	N5MCY Chris
Silent Key Memorial Net	4	45		85	KD5JSM Danny
Thursday Night Net Cancelled for now					

**"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."**  
 ~~~ Mahatma Gandhi

### AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net Rotation

Net Controllers will rotate each week and held on the 146.820 W5DDL repeater only.

The 146.820 and 443.00 repeater located on the Chase Towers downtown Lafayette.

146.820- 600 PL 103.5 W5DDL EchoLink Node: 759629

443.000+ 5 MHz PL 103.5 W5DDL

The 145.410 in Lydia is back up, PL of 123.0.

The July 2019 schedule can be downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website.

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/news/htm>

| DATE:      | TIME:   | REPEATER:     | PL TONE: | NCS          |
|------------|---------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| 07/01/2019 | 7:00 PM | 146.820 W5DDL | 103.5    | Danny KD5JSM |
| 07/08/2019 | 7:00 PM | 146.820 W5DDL | 103.5    | Paul N5KNY   |
| 07/15/2019 | 7:00 PM | 146.820 W5DDL | 103.5    | Eric KG5JHP  |
| 07/22/2019 | 7:00 PM | 146.820 W5DDL | 103.5    | Chris N5MCY  |
| 07/29/2019 | 7:00 PM | 146.820 W5DDL | 103.5    |              |



#### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

|       |        |         |
|-------|--------|---------|
| 07/02 | WA5KNC | Eugene  |
| 07/19 | AI5O   | Stephen |
| 07/22 | KI5DHK | Andrew  |
| 07/23 | WB5GAF | Ralph   |
| 07/28 | KE5AHD | Greg    |
| 08/07 | KF5PCH | Jackie  |
| 08/09 | KF5FNP | Glen    |

### REGION 4 SKYWARN NET

Each Tuesday night at 7:00 PM (local), the Region 4 SkyWarn Net will take place on the 145.370 SkyWarn repeater in Lafayette. Net Control Operators will alternate each week.

In case the 145.370 repeater fails, the net will be held on the 146.820 W5DDL repeater PL Tone 103.5.

The July schedule can be found at this link:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/news/htm>

When using the SkyWarn 145.370 repeater, be sure to use the receiver PL Tone for your area as follows:

NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 - SW Quadrant 141.3 - SE Quadrant 94.8 - Central 103.5.

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing some names to be missing from the list.

## Original 13 Colonies Independence Week Special Event

Again in 2019 the original 13 colonies will be on the air beginning July 1st to July 7th, 2019. At least two special event stations will be on the air from each colony.. You do not need to work all 13 colonies to get the certificate and you do not need to get 2 bonus stations for a clean sweep.

*Date & Times: 2019 Event Dates / July 1 (9AM Eastern) to July 7 (Midnight Eastern) (July 1, 2019-1300 UTC to July 8, 2019-0400 UTC)*

This is a fun special event and a challenge to work all the colonies which will be operating on or near the "13" of each band (Eg. 14.213, 14.013, 14.313, 7.213, 7.013, etc.). 2 meters and 6 meter simplex are encouraged.

Check out this website for more information: <http://www.13colonies.net/>

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### 2019 FIELD DAY

*as seen by Herman KN5GRK & Ramona KG5HNO*

On Saturday morning June 22, 2019 the last full weekend of June 2019 kicked off the ARRL 2019 Field Day. The AARA Field Day took place at the QTH of Steve Webre AF5VR in Church Point, Louisiana. His location consisted of a fully equipped machine shop alongside a large open grass airfield landing strip for small private planes.

Ramona and I left Lafayette around 0945 Saturday morning and using GPS directions that put us driving down I-10 west to Duson, then heading north on LA 95 to Church Point and then getting us lost in Church Point, not the best directions in my opinion. After we made a scenic tour of Church Point, we finally made it to the location around 1030. Church Point is a really nice little town with all the niceties you would want in a small town.

Ramona and I had planned to just attend FD as visitors and observers, take a few pictures and meet some of the new hams on their first field day ventures. Those we talked with were actually having a "field day" and enjoying helping set-up antennas, operating and logging contacts.

We were a little late getting there but there were still some donuts and breakfast burritos (at least that is what they looked like to me), plus coffee, bottled water and soft drinks were still available.

Ramona had this to say about her visit to Field Day: "Well this was my first time going out to Church Point for Field Day and I am sure if they hold it again here, I will be there again. The weather was wonderful! It was fun watching everyone set up their stations. It was like stepping back in time with all the antiques in the shop. We had wonderful refreshments and being with friends just made the day complete. If you didn't go, you should definitely plan on going next year, you will not be disappointed"!

I had two Field Day radiograms to pass from the FD site, after some 40 meter poor band conditions, heavy QSB and QRM on 7290 KHz, I managed to pass one piece of traffic. That is about all the operating I did during the day. I did manage to take a few pictures of some of the operators and interesting shots inside as shown.



Left: Danny KD5JSM and Michael KI5ARX operating 15 meters.

Right: Barrett KG5SSO operating his go-box station.



**Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 51174**  
**Lafayette, LA 70505-1174**  
**Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>**



*Share the Fun ~  
Bring a Friend  
to be a HAM.*

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Veterans Day</b>     | <b>November 11, 2019</b> |
| <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> | <b>November 28, 2019</b> |
| <b>Christmas Day</b>    | <b>December 25, 2019</b> |

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### **SMOOTHIE (Peanut Butter, Chocolate & Banana)**

It's getting hotter. And sometimes we just need to cool down.

In a blender, mix 4 ice cubes, 1 cup of cold milk, 2 tablespoons of PB (Fit powdered peanut butter or 2 tablespoons of peanut butter), 1/2 of a ripe banana, 1 tablespoon of unsweetened cocoa powder, and 2 teaspoons of sugar or artificial sweetener. Blend until smooth.

Using 2% Milk and Fit Peanut Butter powder, 220 calories.

Using 2% Milk, Peanut Butter, and sugar, 375 calories.

### **FCC Information Service**

*Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur Radio license inquiries about new/ vanity call signs: 1-888-225-5322 This will connect you the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at: 202-414-1250 or:*

*[ulscomm@fcc.gov](mailto:ulscomm@fcc.gov).*

**FCC Website:**

*<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>*

*New call sign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/ VEC at 860-594-3000*

*<http://www.arrl.org/arrlyec>*

*The mailing address to the FCC is:  
Federal Communications Commission,  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554*